

Minutes

Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire Timber Transport Group

Meeting 2nd October 2018 at 13:00

Dundonald Room, County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR

Attendee: Alex Murray, James England, Simon Stuart, Bill Tyre, Roland Stiven, Neil Murray, Keith Wishart, Ian Downie, Derek Nelson, Ian Hay, David McLauchlan, John Proudlock.

Apologies: Kerstin Leslie, Mike Yerbury, Andrei Martucci, Andrew Kennedy, Tom Tryon, Neil Dyson, Jamie Farquhar, Tommy Thorburn

1. Welcome, Introduction & Apologies

AM welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves. **JE** then read out apologies.

SS introduced to group as new TTG Project Officer and **JE** was formally thanked by **AM** for his efforts over the years.

2. Matters Arising from Meeting 16th February 2018

- a. Training for police officers on Timber Transport, **SS to work with JST to arrange.**
- b. Complaints about lorries speeding through Straiton village, though previous checks by Police Scotland found that lorries were complying within the speed limit. Also, there were some complaints about lorries running in convoy, but no particular haulier identified.
- c. New dedicated project officer, in place.
- d. **AM** is ICF representative on FISA steering group. A new updated version of the overarching document, Managing Health and Safety in Forestry is due out by Christmas. **AM will send to SS to forward to the group.** *update, FISA are now looking at March 2019 to publish this document
- e. Attention drawn to recent FISA Haulage Safety Manual. This driver manual has been updated and was launched at Timber Transport Conference and has been well received at sawmill weighbridges etc. Trials of overhead electric cable detectors (wire watchers) report due from FISA soon.
- f. Timber Transport Forum Update
 - Costal Shipping will be discussed after TTF on Friday 5th October.
 - Exit/ Entrance specifications, project officers have been discussing, ongoing.

Last meetings minutes signed off.

3. New Project Officer, Role and Purpose of the Timber Transport Group

The role of the project officer was discussed with one of the initial priorities being the revision of the local Timber Transport Strategy, closely followed by organising and prioritising STTS grant applications, supporting councils and others to produce bids likely to be successful with the STTS panel.

The purpose of the group was also reiterated, part of which is to pick up and report poor practise wherever it occurs, we must work together to minimise impact/ damage not only physically on roads but also in public perception of the industry. Most importantly, the voluntary nature of the TTG was reinforced and it is absolutely imperative that industry and local authorities work co-operatively together over timber transport matters.

Need to have consistent messages being communicated back to queries/ complaints, with councils, managers, hauliers and project officer all working together.

4. Revised Timber Transport Strategy

The feedback on the draft A&SL Timber Transport Strategy produced in 2017 was that although it had its good points there was information lacking and the document structure could be improved.

Plan to e-mail out 2005 strategy and 2017 revision for comparison and then to follow up by visiting group members separately to discuss what is required.

SS tasked with preparing new draft strategy by Christmas.

5. Local Timber Transport Issues

- a. Police – Not aware of any issues, mention made of timber lorry fatality elsewhere.
- b. North Ayrshire – The need for a strategy for timber movement from Arran.
- c. ARA – Nothing new.
- d. South Lanarkshire – Andershaw road, try to move timber transport off public road. **SS and ID to discuss.**
- e. Key council contacts
 - i. NLC – David Hilditch
 - ii. ARA – Kevin Braidwood
 - iii. SLC – Stuart Laird

6. Update on Phytophthora

In worst areas normal felling has been suspended FES has 160,000/200,000 m³ of SPHN felling to deal with.

SPNH works must be coordinated and road consultations need to be done in a timely manner because of time restrictions on felling.

ID asked if SLC can be informed of SPHN in their area and KW agreed to share information.

7. Timber Transport Officer Updates

- a. Consultation Protocols – **It would be helpful to produce a template form to provide councils with details of proposed haulage on consultation routes, SS to come up with draft template form and map.**
- b. New planting consultation form produced by JE, KW happy with it.
- c. Recent issues on U27 Deil's Elbow near Daljedburgh where road was damaged due to two concurrent harvesting operations – Emphasises need to work together and to be aware of what others are doing for joined up thinking for timber management plans. Also need to factor in other forestry-related heavy traffic, such as tipper lorries carrying in stone for roads.
- d. Draft Timber Transport Group Constitution – Who we are, what we represent and what are our powers. To be discussed at TTF on 5th October.
- e. Revised Agreed Routes Map Update – **JE stated SLC ARM will be live 3/10/18.**
- f. Strategic Timber Transport Fund Update – **DN.** ARA were unsuccessful with their initial bids, however were subsequently awarded around £700,000 for works on 4 roads. Another round has now been triggered as one council jumped the gun on a project and others have been withdrawn.
- g. Ayrshire Roads Alliance STTS Projects and Updates.
 - i. A714 – Successful, phase 2 to start 15th October.
 - ii. U759 Loch Doon Road - Successful.
 - iii. C11 Patna – Successful.
 - iv. C90 Afton Road – Successful.
 - v. U27 Deil's Elbow – Withdrawn.
 - vi. C58 – Ballochbroe – Unsuccessful.

8. Timber Transport Forum Update

TTF being held in Edinburgh 5th October, agenda distributed by RS.

9. A.O.C.B

- a. Best wishes sent to Tommy Thorburn for a speedy recovery **AM.**
- b. John Miller Limited – Has sold off timber lorries, **JE** thanked John Miller for all his help over the years.
- c. GPDR – Handover of mailing list from **JE** to **SS**, **SS needs to contact everyone and make sure that they are happy to remain on mailing list.** Chase if need be.
- d. Mention was made of fatality arising from lorry driver on mobile phone (Not in ASL area), attention was off the road for 12 secs. Reminder to everyone working with hauliers to emphasise dangers of distractions while driving.
- e. **JE** thanked everyone for their help to him over the years.

Date of next meeting 14/1/19 13:00, venue to be arranged.